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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lte)

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Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

Keywords

Henri Temianka, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, press, June 21, 1990, Doctor's Symphony, discontent, Ivan Shulman, California Chamber Symphony Society, David Shamban, Joel Lish

Doctors Symphony: a Game Effort but Hard to Digest

A concert by the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra may not be the cultural event of the season, but for at least one listener Tuesday night's performance at Stephen S. Wise Temple proved memorable.

The group has no pretensions to greatness. Established in 1953, the orchestra roster includes physicians, dentists, nurses and other medical personnel. Concerts are free, charity activities a major function. Musical finesse would not appear to be a huge concern, though no one can fault the effort.

The ensemble's assistant conductor, Dr. Ivan Shulman, a general surgeon, led the opening work, Verdi's Overture to "La Forza del Destino." He gave confident, clear-cut direction. As destiny would have it, the orchestra followed less clearly, though almost as confidently.

Then cellist David Shamban, a local studio and free-lance musi-

cian, joined the orchestra for Dvořák's Cello Concerto. He took his less-than-ideal position on a platform well above and in front of the orchestra, and directly behind the conductor, Joel Lish. From time to time, Shamban could be seen peering over his right shoulder for a passing glimpse at the baton.

Shamban possesses sure technical abilities, with a firm tone and

impressive concentration. He performed solidly despite the sometimes shaky, often ill-mannered accompaniment led by Lish.

The game but roughly hewn performance that ensued, after intermission, bore a striking resemblance to the Second Symphony of Jean Sibelius, except it lasted much longer. Or so it seemed.

—TIMOTHY MANGAN

Volunteer Musicians

I regret the sneering review of the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony orchestra (June 21).

As a group of music-loving amateurs, with no professional pretensions, the orchestra has generated

worldwide good will and friendship for the United States. Traveling at their own expense, the members have given benefit concerts and raised substantial amounts of money for hospitals and cancer center in Indonesia, Japan, Greece, Israel, Turkey, Thailand, Peru and other countries.

Personal meetings and exchanges between the Los Angeles doctors and their colleagues abroad further enhanced the value of these tours. As United States goodwill ambassadors and messenger of mercy abroad, the Los Angeles Doctors Orchestra deserves nothing but our heartfelt thanks.

HENRI TEMIANKA

Artistic Director
California Chamber Symphony Society, Los Angeles